

callboard

Fall 2008 A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FOR ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS

August 8, 2008 will forever mark a milestone in the history of the North Carolina School of the Arts when Governor Mike Easley signed senate bill #2015, officially changing the school's name to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

"This is a great and historic moment for our school," said Chancellor John Mauceri. "While the school's leadership had suggested and unanimously supported the name, the U is the tip of the iceberg. It is emblematic, in every sense, of a larger and, for us, deeply important shift in the attitude of our university and state leaders toward the School of the Arts."

The bill received the full support of the North Carolina General Assembly, after it had been unanimously supported by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors as well as the school's Board of Trustees.

"The North Carolina School of the Arts has been a part of the University of North Carolina system since 1972," said Board of Trustees Chairman Charlie Lucas. "This name change simply formalizes that relationship initiated more than 35 years ago and does nothing to alter the vision and character of our beloved institution."

In addition to the approval of our new name, state legislators appropriated approximately \$25 million in the state budget this summer for three exciting UNCSA building projects. The first is a facility that will house both a new central climate-controlled storage area for props and scenery, and a new police operations center that will enhance the police department's capability to respond to emergencies and provide essential



day-to-day public safety services. The second is a new production design facility for the School of Filmmaking that will accommodate new programs in animation, gaming, and digital production design. The third is the land acquisition for the emerging Center for Design Innovation, a UNC inter-institutional collaboration between UNCSA and Winston-Salem State University, partnering with Forsyth Tech, which aims to accelerate the growth of creative enterprises in the Piedmont Triad of North Carolina. CDI collaborators work broadly across disciplines, using and inventing digital technologies for design-related research and education programs.

"This money, coupled with last year's \$25 million for the new library, means the School of Arts has received almost \$50 million for new buildings and programs from the state of North Carolina over the last two years," Mauceri said. "It's my belief these funds show a true vote of confidence from the state in all we are doing."

Alumni Notes – Now Online!

As part of the upcoming re-design of *Callboard*, the Alumni Office is also preparing for the launch of an e-newsletter to serve as an online counterpart to our printed publication. This e-newsletter will be delivered more frequently to all alumni for whom we have an email address, and will be built from content in the Class Notes section of our Online Community, alumni.uncsa.edu. You are also now able to read and submit news right on the website, and make updates and changes to the news posted there by the Alumni Office.

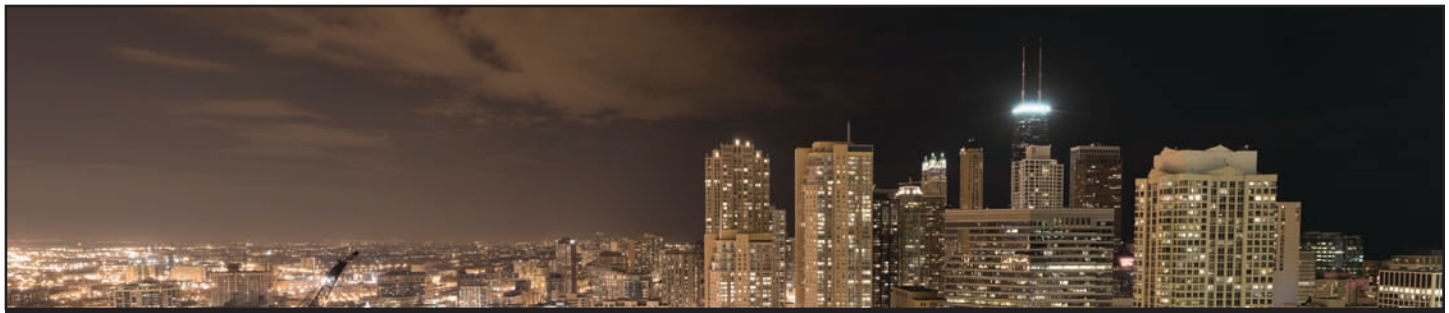
When we unveil the new *Callboard* publication in 2009, alumni notes will once again be included. Until then, we invite you to visit the Online Community to catch up on all the exciting news being shared by your friends! Please be sure to update your contact information and share some news of your own, too.

To join the Online Community, please email us at alumni@uncsa.edu to request your unique "Verification ID" - you will need to provide your **full name while you were a student**, your **year of graduation** (or years of attendance), and your **school and major area of study** at UNCSA (Example: John Smith, 1980, Dance-Ballet).

Seven alumni join UNCSA faculty and staff for 2008-2009

Chris Ervin '08, Library
Dayna Fox '99, School of Dance
Steven Gonzales '98, School of Filmmaking

Ryan Hill '03, Assistant Dean, School of Dance
Erica Johnson '94, School of Music
Zachary Stevenson '01, School of Design & Production
Colin Tribby '84/'04, School of Music



Celebration of Alumni Achievement

On November 2, 2008, four Chicagoland UNCSEA alumni will be honored with Alumni Achievement Awards, which recognize outstanding alumni for their individual achievements, contributions to their industries or professions, service to their community and commitment to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. The awards will be presented at a reception in celebration of our alumni and their collective success and contributions to the arts.

The 2008 Chicago award winners

Jim Vincent (Dance '78) is artistic director of Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance Company, which he joined in August 2000 following an extensive career as a dancer, teacher, ballet master and choreographer. Vincent's distinguished career as a dancer included a 12-year tenure with Jiri Kylián's Nederlands Dans Theater, guest appearances with Lar Lubovitch and two years with Nacho Duato's Compañía Nacional de Danza in Spain, where he also served as the assistant artistic director. He has worked with many choreographers, including Glen Tetley, William Forsythe, Mats Ek, Hans van Manen, Christopher Bruce and Ohad Naharin. Vincent served as ballet master and rehearsal director for Nederlands Dans Theater II and Opéra National de Lyon. He has choreographed a number of works for Nederlands Dans Theater I and II and Switzerland's Stadt Theater Bern. In 2002, Vincent choreographed *counter/part* for HSDC, which has been performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra and with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Vincent's second work for HSDC, *Uniformity*, premiered at NYC's Joyce Theater in 2005, and his newest creation, *Palladio*, inspired by the 16th Century architect and set to composer Karl Jenkins' score, premiered in Chicago in April 2007.

Lynn Baber (Drama '81) is the artistic administrator at Northlight Theatre, where her duties include casting, internships, and assisting the artistic director. For the past ten years, she has served as the theatre arts director of the National High School Institute at Northwestern University (known informally as the Cherub program) and as director of the musical theatre extension program. In over 25 years on the faculty of the Cherub program, she has taught many subjects and has directed 10 productions, including *Execution of Justice*, *The Investigation*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, *Marat/Sade*, and *The Beggar's Opera*. She was the co-founder/artistic director of the Econo-Art Theatre Company (1983-90), along with UNCSEA alumnus Marc Silvia (Drama '82), where she was seen in both world premieres and obscure plays, including *The Underpants*, *Durang's Titanic*, *The Radio Play*, *Beautiful Dreamer* and the highly acclaimed *The Age of Pie* by Peter Hedges (Drama '85). Baber has also performed at the Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Pegasus, National Jewish Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Body Politic, Practical, Cloud 42, and Stormfield. She is cited in Richard Christiansen's book *A Theater of Our Own: A History and a Memoir of 1,001 Nights in Chicago*. Throughout her career, Baber has repeatedly identified talented theatre arts students

and encouraged them to apply to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, greatly aiding our recruitment efforts and helping to maintain the high standards set by the School of Drama.

Gianna Rolandi (Music '70) is the director of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, the renowned artist-training program of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Rolandi has enjoyed great success on international opera, concert, and recital stages. She graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia in 1975 and made her operatic debut that year with the New York City Opera as Olympia in *The Tales of Hoffmann* and as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, both to critical acclaim. Rolandi was a leading coloratura soprano at NYCO for the next 15 years, singing more than 30 roles in operas including *I puritani*, *La traviata*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Rigoletto*, and *The Cunning Little Vixen*. She debuted in Europe in 1981 at Glyndebourne Festival Opera as Zerbinetta, returning in 1984 for her first performances of Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Zdenka in *Arabella*, once again to enormous critical acclaim. Rolandi has performed with many of the major North American opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, the Canadian Opera Company, the Washington National Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and at Lyric Opera of Chicago, where she debuted as Dorinda in Handel's *Orlando* (1986), and returned to sing Despina in *Così fan tutte* (1993-94), a production that marked her retirement from the stage. She has also appeared with many of the world's major ensembles, including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the London Philharmonic. Rolandi is a member of the National Advisory Board for the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she has also taught master classes and has an endowed scholarship in voice in her name.

Young Philanthropist Award

Heather Ho (D&P '07) is a graduate of the Scene Design program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Her love of painting and her skills as an illustrator led her to take the whole series of Scenic Arts classes at the school. Her production assignments at UNCSEA were *Walking Down Broadway* directed by Donald Saddler and *The Mandrake* directed by Gerald Freedman; the designs for both were described by Howard

Jones, director of the Scenic Arts Program as "very clever and very painterly." Since graduation, she has been freelancing as a scenic artist. Her very generous contribution to the School of Design and Production's paint department within only a year of her graduation is a demonstration of her passion for her craft, her desire to help her fellow scenic artists, and her thoughtful consideration of the needs of her alma mater. For these reasons, we are honored to recognize her for her leadership in philanthropy by a young alumna.

UNCSEA Announces 2008-09 William R. Kenan, Jr. Fellows

Sixteen UNCSEA graduates have been selected as the 2008-09 William R. Kenan, Jr. Fellows for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education and the Penland School of Crafts. The Kenan Fellowship program, a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, provides opportunities for young and promising creative artists to learn from and collaborate with established professionals in their industry who are committed to helping students develop their careers. Through aesthetic education practices, practical knowledge and experience, a network of peer professionals, and a wide variety of projects, the fellowships are designed to help students develop their skills and broaden their experience, promoting life-long learning and stimulating innovative ideas and experimentation in their craft. This year's Fellows are:

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:
Jason Caballero (D&P '07, Houston, TX)
Elisheba Ilttop (D&P '07, Cary, NC)
Samuel Kitchel (D&P '08, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI)
Brahim Pettis (D&P '08, Clarkston, GA.)

Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education (LCI):

Travis Calvert (Music '08, Charlotte, NC)
Allison Cave (Dance '08, Salisbury, NC)
Garrett Clapp (Filmmaking '08, Dawson, ND)
Uthman Ebrahim (Dance '06, Winston-Salem, NC)
Quin Gordon (Filmmaking '08, Mill Valley, CA)
Jessica Wontropski (Dance '08, Baldwin, NY)

Penland School of Crafts:

Danelle Boskovich (Visual Arts '07, Charlotte, NC)
Brianna Gribben (Visual Arts '08, Carthage, NC)
Sarah Lilly (Visual Arts '08, Hendersonville, NC)
Charles Peele (Visual Arts '08, Charlotte, NC)
Miranda Pfeiffer (Visual Arts '07, Charlotte, NC)
Jaclyn Senne (Visual Arts '08, Greenville, NC)

Open Dream Ensemble Announces 2008 Cast

The Open Dream Ensemble, a professional outreach program of UNCSA sponsored by the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, is now in its fourth season, and will perform for students across the Southeast this fall. Featuring the collaborative skills of professional artists trained at UNCSA, the multi-disciplinary performing arts group connects live theatre, dance and music with artist residencies and educational workshops that have captured the imagination of over 32,000 students. The 2008 Open Dream Ensemble cast members are: **Jonathan Gordon (Music '08)**, **Amber Ferenz (Music '98)**, **Kjerstin Lysne (Dance '08)**, **Peter Shanahan (Music '04)**, **Rose Shields (Dance '07)**, **James Stewart (Music '07)**, and **Haydee Thompson (Drama '07)**.

Rebecca Nussbaum (Music '97) serves as general manager for Open Dream Ensemble. **Mollye Maxner (Dance '93)** is the company's creative director. Other UNCSA alumni participating in the 2008 season are **Kelly Maxner (Dance '94, Drama '00)**, scriptwriter and choreographer; **Matthew Smart (D&P '08)**, costume designer; and **Jennifer O'Kelly (D&P '93)**, lighting designer.

The Open Dream Ensemble will present two original shows in 2008. *The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie* is a story about courage, determination and imagination.



The Red Planet, the ensemble's newest original show, is about Earth's first community on Mars in the year 2158, as its inhabitants prepare for a broadcast home that celebrates the challenges of adapting to an unfamiliar environment.

The 2008 season opened July 29 with a week-long run at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo, NC. In addition to performances in more than 15 venues throughout North Carolina, Open Dream Ensemble will take its innovative program to seven other states as well, for the first time since its creation in 2005. For more information, visit www.opendreamensemble.com.

School of Filmmaking's "American Immersion" Program Debuts in New Orleans and Philadelphia

"American Immersion," a new program that is the brainchild of School of Filmmaking Dean Jordan Kerner, aims to enhance the educational experience of film students by creating opportunities to expand their horizons through immersion in a wide variety of real-life situations.

"Most students just haven't absorbed enough experience to illuminate the joys and sorrows, the humor and tragedy, as well as the curious and noble of our lives," Kerner explains. "My hope is that the final result of this program will be the enrichment and uplifting of the next generation of storytellers for this great nation, and for the storytellers of the world."

The inaugural American Immersion program, held in May, found students participating in community service projects in New Orleans and Philadelphia. One group participated in the Jimmy & Rosalyn Carter Work Project Week, which commemorated the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity's 25th year of service. Another group volunteered at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center, which provides health care for some 433,000 veterans, including returning Iraq War soldiers. Both experiences and locations for the program will vary each year.

Greensboro's **Bruce Kiesling (Filmmaking '08)**, who studied film music composition, called the trip to New Orleans "an amazing experience (and) definitely life-changing. It resonated for all of us. What really struck me about the whole week was the adaptability of the human spirit. We're capable of so much more than we imagine."

We at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts are grateful to Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc., for providing funding for American Immersion's inaugural year.



William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust Offers \$1 Million Challenge Grant

Have you been considering a donation to the School but are looking for some additional incentive to make your gift now?

The William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust Challenge Grant, announced in January, is targeted at bringing new donors to the School and awareness and support to its scholarship programs. It matches gifts from new donors and selected donors who renew their support of the School. Gifts to any of the five arts schools that make up UNCSA and its academic program will be matched with a gift to scholarships in that school until December 2009.

"The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust is delighted to continue its support of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts through this grant," said Dr. Richard M. Krasno, executive director of the Trust. "We recognize that scholarship support for the incredibly talented and dedicated young men and women who attend UNCSA is essential for the continuing growth and success of the School and we hope our challenge will encourage others who appreciate this great cultural resource to join with us."

In response to this challenge, as of October 1st, UNCSA had received \$200,000 in qualifying gifts; the Kenan Trust will provide up to \$1 million in matching funds for scholarship. The school is grateful to the Trust for this gift, which is both an investment in its vital scholarship program and a wonderful incentive for new donors to give.

This is not the first time that the Kenan Charitable Trust has chosen to fund scholarships at UNCSA. Most recently, the Trust donated \$1 million for The William R. Kenan, Jr. Excellence Awards – full scholarships for 20 UNCSA students over seven years, beginning in 2006-07.

Pictured above: Dr. Krasno, left and Mr. Kenan with 2008-09 Excellence Award recipients: (back row) Brooke Robbins, D&P; Braxton Molinara, Drama; and Whitney Oppenheimer, D&P; (front row) Vanessa Hernandez, Drama; Kaitlin P. Bodfish, Filmmaking; and Valerie Walz, D&P.

Alumni Director Search

The search committee has been assembled for our next alumni director, whom we hope to introduce by January 2009. Serving on the committee are: **Kay Lord**, chair, former assistant vice president and director of alumni activities at Wake Forest University and longtime volunteer at UNCSA; **Kelly Maxner '94/'00**, director of the high school Drama program; **Jason Romney '04**, sound design faculty; **Cinny Strickland Graham '87**, actress and former Foundation board member; and **Mark Graves**, alumni programs associate.

The committee met recently with chief advancement officer **Suzanne Hilser-Wiles** to discuss the qualities and skill sets needed for successful candidates. Please check the Online Community or UNCSA website for the job listing.

Alumni Event Survey

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the alumni survey posted online at alumni.uncsa.edu from July through September.

We received significant feedback regarding our alumni events and, as a result, have decided to plan Alumni Weekend 2009 for the fall instead of the spring and plan additional changes based on your recommendations.

Should you have any more comments or suggestions, feel free to email us at alumni@uncsa.edu. Thanks for participating!

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 2, 2008**
Celebration of Alumni Achievement in Chicago, IL
- **March 8, 2009**
Celebration of Alumni Achievement in New York City, NY
- **October 2009**
Alumni Weekend at UNCSEA

For more information, please visit the Online Community at alumni.uncsa.edu or contact the Office of Alumni at (336) 631-1203 or alumni@uncsa.edu.

University of North Carolina
School of the Arts

Fall 2008

Callboard is published by the Office of Alumni at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for alumni, students, and friends.

Please mail alumni updates and address changes to:

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or telephone (336) 631-1203,

or email alumni@uncsa.edu.

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Your Feedback Needed!

Callboard is getting a facelift, and we want your opinion! What would you like to see in an alumni newsletter or magazine? How often do you want to hear from us? Would you rather get your news in your mailbox or your inbox?

Please share your thoughts at alumni.uncsa.edu/newsurvey. We'd love to hear from as many of you as possible, to make the new *Callboard* as informative and engaging as possible.

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